REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the title of the application be changed to "Vacuum Cleaner With Level Control." The title is being amended to more precisely identify the subject matter of the disclosure in accordance with MPEP § 606.

Claims 1-9 and 11-14 are pending in this application. Claims 9, 11, and 12 were rejected. Claims 1-8 and 14 are allowed. Claim 13 was objected to but would be allowable if amended to include all of the limitations of independent claim 9. Claims 4 and 9 are amended. Claim 13 is cancelled. Claims 15-20 are added. Two paragraphs of the specification are amended herein to correct typographical errors in the as-filed specification. No new matter is added in the amendments. In view of the claim amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections and objections to these claims be withdrawn.

Claim 8 is amended to remove the comma that appeared due to a typographical error in line 11 of claim 8 as presented in the Amendment dated September 14, 2006.

Claim 8 is further amended to correct the typographical error in spelling of the word "deflecting," which is similar to the amendment to claim 4 in the Amendment dated September 14, 2006. Support for this amendment can be found in at least page 12, II. 8-12 of the as-filed specification. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments to claim 8 do not alter the scope of claim 8 in any manner and are not submitted for a reason related to patentability.

Claim 9 is amended to add the limitations of objected claim 13. Accordingly, claims 9 and 11-12 are allowable in their amended form. The limitations of previous claim 13 added to claim 9 are additionally amended to correct the typographical error in spelling the word "deflecting," which does not alter the scope of claim 9 and was not made for a reason related to patentability. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 9 and 11-12 be withdrawn in view of the amendments to claim 9.

Application Number 10/665,544
Response to Office Action dated December 7, 2006

Claims 1-9, 11-12, and 14-20 are patentable. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner grant early allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicants at (312) 222-8124 if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen C. Smith

Registration No. 56,250 Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE P.O. BOX 10395 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610 (312) 321-4200